

## More information



More information about the process is available on the Queensland Health website: [health.qld.gov.au/VAD](https://health.qld.gov.au/VAD)

## For help reading this information

- **Multicultural Connect Line**  
Free hotline number - 1300 079 020
- **Interpreter Service (Help with English)**  
13 QGOV (13 74 68) and ask for an interpreter
- **Translating and Interpreting Service**  
13 14 50

## Help in your language



If you need an interpreter, ask your doctor for one. It is free.

## Contact details

### Voluntary Assisted Dying Coordinator

**Phone:** (07) 4433 1362

**Email:** [THHS-VAD@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:THHS-VAD@health.qld.gov.au)

**Hours of operation:** 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays)

Townsville Hospital and Health Service  
100 Angus Smith Drive, Douglas QLD 4810

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[www.townsville.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.townsville.health.qld.gov.au)



Partnering with Consumers - This patient information brochure supports National Safety and Quality Health Service Standard 2. Consumers and/or carers provided feedback on this patient information.

# Voluntary assisted dying

A guide for patients and families of the  
Townsville Hospital and Health Service



*This brochure provides information for people receiving care at Townsville Hospital and Health Service (Townsville HHS) who ask about voluntary assisted dying.*

Voluntary assisted dying is one of several choices that a person may have at the end of their life.

Voluntary assisted dying is about choice. It isn't a choice between life and death. It gives people who meet eligibility criteria and who are suffering and already dying the option to ask for medical help to end their life. It won't be for everyone.

Voluntary assisted dying is voluntary. The law respects the rights of healthcare workers to not provide voluntary assisted dying, while making sure people wanting to access it can do so.

Voluntary assisted dying is not emergency healthcare. People may take weeks or months to work their way through the process and make the final decision to administer the substance.

People can stop the voluntary assisted dying process at any point, for any reason. People who are assessed as eligible for voluntary assisted dying may never choose to use it.

### Eligibility criteria

There are strict eligibility criteria for accessing voluntary assisted dying. This is one of the safeguards in place to protect vulnerable people.

To access voluntary assisted dying, the person must meet all the eligibility criteria:

1. Have an eligible condition.
  - advanced, progressive, and will cause death
  - expected to cause death within 12 months
  - causing suffering that the person considers to be intolerable.
2. Have decision-making capacity.
3. Be acting voluntarily and without coercion.
4. Be at least 18 years of age.
5. Fulfil residency requirements.



### Voluntary Assisted Dying Coordinator

The Townsville HHS Voluntary Assisted Dying Coordinator is available to support you and answer your questions.

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**Email:** THHS-VAD@health.qld.gov.au

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Monday to Friday (excluding public  
holidays)

### Support services

Different people will need and want different levels of support. Some people may become upset when reading about voluntary assisted dying. If this has raised distressing issues for you or someone you know, you can call one of the helplines below:

#### 24/7 crisis services

- Mental Health Access Line - 1300 64 22 55 (24/7)
- Lifeline - 13 11 14 (24/7 - phone, text, online)
- Suicide Call Back Service - 1300 659 467 (24/7 - phone and online).

#### Support services

- Beyond Blue - 1300 22 4636 (24/7 phone, online)
- Griefline - 1300 845 745 (6am to midnight AEST, 7 days a week)
- Queensland Transcultural Mental Health Centre - 3317 1234 or 1800 188 189 (outside Brisbane) or 1300 64 22 55 (24/7)
- World Wellness Group (multicultural support) - 1300 079 020
- 13YARN (13 92 76) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

For more information and support visit:  
[www.qld.gov.au/health/mental-health/helplines](http://www.qld.gov.au/health/mental-health/helplines).